



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023A99-29
I-B-145

August 4, 2000

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORThe Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Governor of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

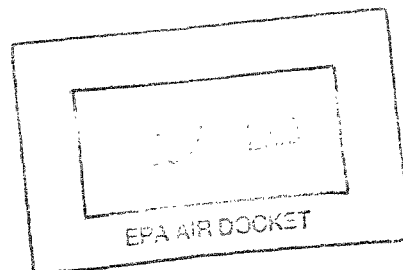
Dear Governor Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, 2000, forwarding New Hampshire's recommendations on eight-hour ozone designations. Making recommendations on geographic boundaries for ozone is a critical step towards providing the residents in New Hampshire with an important tool to make informed decisions about air pollution levels in their cities and towns. We intend to review your recommendations and work with your Department of Environmental Services in determining final boundaries for New Hampshire's nonattainment area.

Even though EPA's new ozone standard is pending before the courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, in its 1999 decision, recognized that the designation process would continue. EPA is obligated under the Clean Air Act and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act to complete this process, which includes reviewing your recommendations and making ours later this year. As a result, EPA is moving forward with the designation process. We are proceeding with this action to protect public health, while appealing other parts of the May 14, 1999, D.C. Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. This will ensure that people living in nonattainment areas will have clean air as quickly as possible once the ongoing litigation is completed. Together, we can move forward to bring cleaner, healthier air to the people in New England.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Richard Burkhart at 617-918-1664 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Mindy S. Lubber
Regional Administratorcc: Robert Varney, DES
Ken Colburn, DES

Help us serve you better. If you need to call us regarding this correspondence in the future, please reference 01-0000479.
